GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2846
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
Merger of Ministries
Parthipan Shri R.

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has merged the ministries of urban development and housing and urban poverty alleviation involved in policy making in urban areas to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and if so, the details thereof

(b) Whether the Government is of the opinion that this will be more effective in governance of various schemes under the Ministries and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Whether these Ministries have a long history of mergers and de-mergers and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a): Yes, Madam. Government of India, Cabinet Secretariat has issued a Gazette Notification on 06.07.2017 vide which the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation have been merged into one Ministry viz. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Awasan aur Shahari Karya Mantralaya).

(b): Yes, Madam. A Group of Secretaries (GoS) constituted by the Government in October 2016 under the broad theme of "Health, Sanitation & Urban Development" was of the view that the problem of poverty and housing for low-income groups should be addressed within an integrated framework of planning for urban development. This integrated framework will focus on building urban infrastructure for all, ensure that the deliveries of urban services are of the same standard for all and to make plans for affordable housing for the poor. The Group recommended that a single Ministry of Urban Affairs and Housing will be better equipped to deal with the pace and complexity of urbanization in the future.

(c): Yes, Madam. This Ministry was constituted on May 13, 1952 when it was known as the Ministry of Works, Housing & Supply. Subsequently it was renamed as Ministry of Works & Housing when a separate Ministry of Supply came up. The name of the Ministry was changed to Ministry of Urban Development in September, 1985 in recognition of the importance of urban issues. With the creation of a separate Department of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation on March 8, 1995, the Ministry came to be known as the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment. The Ministry had two Departments: Department of Urban Development & Department of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation. The two Departments were again merged on April 9, 1999 and in consequence thereto, the name was restored to "The Ministry of Urban Development." This Ministry was bifurcated into two Ministries viz. (i) "Ministry of Urban Development" and (ii) "Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation" with effect from October 16, 1999. These two Ministries were again merged into one Ministry on May 27, 2000 and named as "Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation" with two Departments; (i) Department of Urban Development and (ii) Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation. The Ministry was again bifurcated into two Ministries viz: (i) Ministry of Urban Development and (ii) Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation with effect from May 27, 2004. The Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation was subsequently named as Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.
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